

MR. SANDERSON: Thank you, and good afternoon. My name is Stuart Sanderson. And I'm the President of the Colorado Mining Association, an organization of 900 members, which includes the producers of coal and other minerals throughout Colorado and the West, as well as the individuals, communities, and businesses that serve and supply this multi-billion dollar mining industry. I'm also appearing today as part of a coalition of 17 organizations of local governments and other groups throughout Colorado, which are really concerned and are in opposition to the Department of the Interior's efforts to impose a leasing moratorium, as well as to hike royalty rates. This is not only not in the interests of Colorado, or in the interest of the economy. But, it will jeopardize our nation's long-term interest in securing an affordable, reliable, and yes clean, source of energy. We've already heard today about the unprecedented regulatory assault on coal through the [indiscernible] the mercury, air, toxics rules, and the other laws which have discouraged, and which have actually driven down production in Colorado. I would like to remind you that according to the most recent survey that the Colorado Mining Association performs, coalminers are among the highest paid industrial workers in the State, earning average wages and benefits in excess of \$135,000 annually. We pay above market royalty rates. Government agencies, including the Inspector General's Office within Interior, and the Government Accountability Office, have already found that there are not major fixes needed in the Federal Coal Leasing Program. The leasing moratorium pause that has been imposed, not only threatens operations in this State and threatens their cessation within three years, it is clearly an over-reaction. When I hear some of the talks today, I wonder if they're talking about the same coal industry. Coal industry, like many sectors of mining -- all sectors of mining are subject to pervasive, extensive regulation under programs which are administered, many of them, by the United States Department of the Interior, including the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act, the Endangered Species Act. We have an outstanding record of environmental compliance. And it's important to keep in mind that in assessing the minuscule climate related carbon emissions from coal, it's important to keep in mind that these are already being regulated. I want to thank you for your time and attention. In terms of the

scoping, you must consider that the Federal Coal Leasing laws are not laws designed for environmental protection. The industry is already subject to regulation. Thank you.